

We claim:

1. A laser beam processing machine comprising a chuck table for holding a workpiece and a laser beam application means for applying a laser beam to the workpiece held on the chuck table,
5 wherein

the machine further comprises a protective film forming means for forming a protective film on a surface to be processed, of the workpiece before the laser beam processing.

- 10 2. The laser beam processing machine according to claim 1, wherein the protective film forming means comprises a spinner table that holds the workpiece and rotates and a resin solution supply means for supplying a liquid resin solution to the to-be-processed surface of the workpiece held on the spinner
15 table.

3. The laser beam processing machine according to claim 2, wherein the liquid resin solution supplied by the resin solution supply means is water-soluble.

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4. The laser beam processing machine according to claim 2, wherein the protective film forming means comprises a cleaning water supply means for supplying cleaning water to the to-be-processed surface of the workpiece held on the spinner
25 table.

5. The laser beam processing machine according to claim 2, wherein the machine comprises a cassette placing portion for placing a cassette for storing the workpiece, a workpiece
30 take-in/take-out means for taking out the workpiece before processing from the cassette placed on the cassette placing portion and taking the workpiece after processing into the cassette, a temporary depot portion for temporarily storing the workpiece taken out by the workpiece take-in/take-out

means, and a conveying means for carrying the workpiece temporarily stored on the temporary depot portion to the spinner table.

- 5 6. The laser beam processing machine according to claim 5, wherein the conveying means carries the workpiece having a protective film formed on the spinner table to the chuck table.